Winter in Gaza, Silence in the Media

Photo Caption: Christmas Eve by the open fire: Salah al-Mabhouh in front of the campfire with his son Abdul-Razzaq in the al-Bureij refugee-camp in the central Gaza strip on Christmas Eve, Wednesday. (Photo: Abdel Kareem Hana, AP/NTB)

https://klassekampen.no/artikkel/2025-12-27/vinter-i-gaza-taust-i-mediene/JgzK

The press is failing the children who are freezing to death in Gaza – for the third Christmas in a row.

If we relied solely on Norwegian media, we might believe there is a ceasefire in Gaza, that the genocide is over, and that thousands of new tents are being allowed in. That is not the case.

Israel continues to bomb Gaza every day, for reasons no one can explain, and entirely unhindered. As winter has set in, the situation is rapidly deteriorating from dire to catastrophic. Israel is refusing to allow tents into Gaza, where it has destroyed more than 80 percent of all buildings. That is tantamount to sentencing children to die - by freezing to death. It's the emaciated, the sick and the wounded children who will be the first to pass away in their sleep. And the smallest of them all; the babies.

Once again, Israel has decided not to allow any journalists into Gaza. The death toll continues to rise. Why does not everyone know this? It seems the press has lost its grip on the very

concept of balance during this genocide. Those who defend Israel are granted legitimacy by the media – published in newspapers and invited into debates on radio and television, as if it is not mass killing of innocent people they are defending. Giving pro-Israel groups such as With Israel for Peace (MIFF) a platform in the public debate is a deeply misguided understanding of balance. They have their own website, where they can express themselves freely.

UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese is calling for Western media outlets that openly defend genocide to be investigated and held criminally accountable. On November 26, NRK aired a video showing flooded tents in Gaza. The Norwegian state broadcaster concluded by reporting: "Israel says it is complying with all its obligations under the ceasefire and that it is not blocking humanitarian aid." It's the job of the press to challenge Israel's false claims, or to disregard them altogether. Instead, NRK amplifies Israeli propaganda. The New York Times likewise cited Israel in its article Floods, Mud and Cold Add to Gazans' Misery on December 14, claiming that tents are being allowed in. Unlike NRK, however, the NYT adds: "But it is not nearly enough."

Qatar's state news agency, QNA, reported on December 11 that 1.5 million forcibly displaced people are living under extreme conditions. Hundreds of thousands of families are trying to find shelter in tents that are little more than pieces of fabric. 22,000 tents have recently been completely destroyed. Israel is blocking the entry of new tents. QNA did not include Israel's response. They conveyed the truth, without Israeli obfuscation. Norwegian media would likely have dismissed this as unbalanced and one-sided. But the press has balanced itself out of reality if refusing to whitewash Israel is considered bad journalism.

The press is also failing in its duty to hold power to account. Editors should demand action from the government, and a genocide should automatically trigger such demands. The press should show the public the reality on their pages, and call for measures and sanctions in their editorials. Perhaps the press does not understand what the UN is saying:

«When clear signs and evidence of genocide emerge, the absence of action to stop it amounts to complicity».

Our top Labour Party leaders have a remarkable ability to *speak* support for Palestine, while they are actually *doing* nothing. On December 12, the government once again complemented itself on its own website, urging the world to follow the ICJ's recommendations on aid to Gaza – while not heeding the call themselves.

The press should have exposed this glaring double standard. Norway is at the forefront of enabling Israel's genocide through the Government Oil Fund's massive investments. Labour Party leaders do nothing while Israel bombs Gaza daily and blocks tents and humanitarian aid. The press should confront the prime minister and the finance minister with what they intend to do to stop the genocide. Ireland and Spain recognized Palestine on the same day as Norway, May 28 last year. They have followed up with a range of concrete measures against Israel, including a full arms embargo. They have also boycotted the Eurovision Song Contest in 2026. Norway could have acted in concert with other countries. Instead, the Labour Party has gone in the opposite direction and protected our investments in companies that violate international law in Gaza. It is a national disgrace. Yet the press does not reflect the public opinion on this.

While Norwegian media sleep on the job, Al Jazeera English reports daily on what is happening. Other reliable sources include Democracy Now and Drop Site News in the United States, Middle East Eye and Palestine Chronicle in the United Kingdom.

This is the third Christmas in a row where the freezing children in Gaza need our brotherly love and compassion. Norway continues to rake in billions from investments in companies the UN has identified as war criminals. Our state can afford to donate a few crumbs of these gains to Gaza.

This Christmas, we should expect that our prime minister demand of Israel that they open the borders and allow tents into Gaza. They need caravans, warm clothing, waterproof sleeping bags – by the thousands. And we should see concrete measures that will prove that the demands are meant seriously. There is no time to lose: the frost and flood catastrophe is already a reality. The UN reports that 630,000 children need warm winter clothing. 2,407 children are suffering from acute malnutrition. When our politicians fail so miserably, the press is our society's watchdog, who should not only bark loudly, but also bite.

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